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opinion, is too much inclined to consider these game-rhymes as coming from a purely English source, rather than as the forms of a modern European system. But this comment applies only to certain of the hypotheses respecting origin, and has nothing to do with the main scope and purpose of the work, which deserves unqualified praise.

For one exceedingly ingenious and probable conjecture we must find room. Every child knows the rhyme: "Here we come, gathering nuts in May." Why "nuts in May"? "Knots of May" has been a familiar expression for those garlands or "baskets" ("May-baskets") which May parties go out to seek; it would therefore seem likely that this would be the proper spelling. The rhyme, therefore, represents the obtaining of a partner for the May ceremonies. Whether the analogy is to be carried farther, and it is to be considered that the action of the game describes the possible ancient practice of forcibly carrying off such a partner, is more doubtful.

The singing games are accompanied by the music, which appears to be faithfully and excellently indicated.

W. W. N.

CHILDREN'S SINGING GAMES. With the tunes to which they are sung. Collected and edited by ALICE B. GOMME. Pictured in black and white by WINIFRED SMITH. David Nutt, in the Strand, London. Macmillan and Co., New York. No date. Pp. 70.

This little work contains eight singing games, taken from the collection just noticed. The book, which is intended for the pleasure of children, and for use in the family and the kindergarten, is illustrated after a fashion now common in holiday publications relating to child-life. The antiquity of the games, together with their intrinsic attraction, is likely to render these of permanent interest to the English-speaking world. As we write, our attention is drawn to a series of articles contained in the "New York Tribune," from the pen of a well-known musical critic, Mr. H. E. Krehbiel. Mr. Krehbiel favors the hypothesis of the mythologic significance of certain of the songs, being inclined, for example, in the words, "Ring round the rosy," belonging to a familiar game-rhyme, to find one of the titles of the goddess Holda or Holle. At all events, whatever differences of opinion may continue to exist respecting the original meaning of this or that rhyme, there is every reason to suppose that in some of these games we have survivals of ancient religious ritual, as well as of early social usage.

BIBLIOGRAFIA DELLE TRADIZIONI POPOLARI D' ITALIA. Compilata da GIUSEPPE PITRÈ. Con tre indici speciali. Torino-Palermo. Carlo Clausen. MDCCCXCIV. Pp. xx, 603.

In this most valuable and laborious bibliography the illustrious compiler has added to the debt which the study of folk-lore owes to him, far more than to any other Italian scholar, and has given to the very imperfect bibliography of folk-lore an admirable beginning and example. The work includes not only books (of which about a thousand are catalogued), but also articles contained in periodicals and newspapers, almanacs, calendars,